

LESSON 9

JOINT TASK FORCE OPERATIONS

Introduction

Purpose	This lesson will focus on joint task force doctrine, how the JTF plans actual taskings in response to crisis action problems, and deployment execution.
Importance of the Study	This lesson focuses on planning operations down to the actual J-2, J-3, J-4, J-5, and J-6 levels. In your career assignments, you will be responsible for planning and executing operations by each of these sections.
Relationship to Other Instruction	<p>In lesson 8 you learned about the framework of authority and doctrine establishing and governing JTF and subordinate commands in response to <i>deliberate</i> and <i>crisis action</i> contingency scenarios. This lesson will expand upon that framework and include details about the JTF crisis action planning (CAP) process.</p> <p>Forming the pivotal "linchpin" of this course, lessons 8 and 9 together introduce the doctrinal framework that connects the theoretical aspects of military involvement with the practical and operational aspects, including relationships on the joint force level.</p>
Study Time	This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 2 hours of study.

Educational Objectives

**Joint and
Multinational
Operations**

Understand how the U.S. military is organized to plan, execute, sustain, and train for joint and multinational operations from the OPORD through the activities of the J-2, J-3, J-4, J-5, and J-6 staffs. [JPME Area 1e]

**Current Joint
Doctrine**

Comprehend current joint doctrine in terms of the logistics and communications problems of implementing CAPs. [JPME Area 2a]

**Operational
Level of War**

Summarize the considerations of employing joint and multinational forces at the operational level of war. [JPME Area 3a]

**JPME Areas/
Objectives/Hours
(accounting data)** 1/e/.25
2/a/.25
3/a/.5

Principles For Developing a JTF Command Structure

JTF Crisis Action Planning Process

JTFs are usually involved in deliberate planning, particularly standing JTFs or component headquarters tasked by CINCs with contingency JTF headquarters capabilities. In addition, JTFs can be tasked or formed in the event of a crisis. Once the JTF is formed, the CJTF undertakes crisis action planning (CAP) activities.

- During CAP Phase V (Execution Planning), the supported commander's crisis action staff publishes the supported commander's operational order (OPORD).
- The CJTF conducts parallel, but more detailed execution planning and normally issues a *supporting* CJTF OPORD with detailed instructions to *subordinates*.

Deployment Execution

- During deployment execution, the Joint Operation Execution System (JOPES) provides combatant commanders, the Joint Staff, and the NCA the capability to monitor and control the deployment.
 - Explicit provision should be made for the CJTF to make inputs via the Worldwide Military Command and Control System (WWMCCS) Intercomputer Network (WIN).
 - Equipment and trained JOPES operators should be made available to CJTF if the mission requires JOPES capability.
 - If physical constraints of other factors preclude JOPES equipment and operators from being assigned to the JTF HQ, the establishing authority will make explicit provision for CJTF to make input to the JOPES data base.
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Purpose and Functions of the JTF Planning Group

Functions of the JTF Headquarters

Functions of the JTF Headquarters (HQ) may include the following:

- Planning for deployment, employment, and redeployment of the JTF
 - Assisting the CJTF in the direction, control, and coordination of operations of assigned forces, coordinating planning activities of subordinate component commands
 - Developing courses of action and conducting staff estimates on COAs
 - Preparing plans or orders based on CJTF's decisions concerning COSs
 - Monitoring accomplishment of the commander's decisions
 - Coordinating intelligence requirements for the force
 - Coordinating with friendly forces and/or foreign governments when required by the order establishing the JTF
 - Coordinating with other forces and agencies not assigned
 - Providing information to supporting or adjacent commands
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Required Reading

Joint Pub Readings

Joint Pub 5-00.2, *Joint Task Force (JTF) Planning Guidance and Procedures* (1991). Read chapters I and III. Find this reading in the *Joint Pub Readings* Vol. III (8800), pp. 1035 to 1037 and pp. 1054 to 1058. Chapter I is an introduction to the joint planning process. Chapter III discusses joint task force operations and responsibilities during the employment of a JTF.

Issues for Consideration

**Logistics
Authority**

What is the logistics authority for support exercised by the CJTF?

**JTF
Operations**

What are the logistics considerations for planning and executing JTF operations?

**JTF Planning
Group**

What are the purpose and function of the Joint Task Force Planning Group?

JCSE

What are the purpose and function of the Joint Communication Support Element (JCSE)?

**CJTF's
Planning
Guidance**

How is the CJTF's planning guidance important for developing courses of action and a concept of operations?
